



**SOLVAY
MINERALS**

Feb. 5, 2002

Dan Olson
WDEQ-Air Quality
122 W. 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Re: Evaluation of Fuel Alternatives

Dear Mr. Olson:

Solvay Minerals is investigating the option to convert Calciners 1 and 2 (AQD #17) back to a coal stoker fired system. Prior to 1995, these units were coal-fired, but were converted to natural gas-firing with permit MD-229 (issued June 13, 1995). This investigation is a direct result of uncertainties and price swings of natural gas that was experienced in 2001 and is expected to continue to plague the mining industry in the future.

Conversion of Calciners 1 and 2 only, is attractive to Solvay as part of the coal infrastructure for these units is still installed.

The global NO_x emissions for the facility would be maintained by the installation of selective noncatalytic reduction (SNCR by urea or ammonia), selective catalytic reduction (SCR), or some other acceptable means on the coal-fired boilers (AQD #18 and #19). This reduction would offset the increase in NO_x emissions due to the conversion back to coal on the calciners.

Your written response to this request is needed to facilitate the engineering and capital planning requirements at the corporate Solvay level. Many thanks for your help in the matter.

Sincerely

| J.P. Metziner

cc: Tony Hoyt

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